

Wajibika Quarterly Performance Monitoring Report

January-March 2010

Activities Completed

This quarter, Wajibika successfully completed several start-up related activities including identifying an office and registering Abt Associates, Inc. in Tanzania. The Wajibika team also submitted a draft of the Year One Workplan, and finalized it in collaboration with USAID. A draft PMP was also completed and submitted to USAID.

In preparation for the pilot phase of the project, Wajibika conducted several meetings with key Government of Tanzania (GOT) stakeholders at national, regional and council levels to obtain strategic advice and essential buy-in. In addition to government stakeholders, the Wajibika team introduced the project to the health development partners in Tanzania.

Based on the advice gained from the above mentioned stakeholder meetings, and in particular the GOT's focus on using a regional approach to implementing health related interventions, the team selected 8 start-up councils, within the Iringa Region. The Wajibika team conducted a rapid assessment in all start-up councils. Analysis of the assessment results and the write up of the results are still ongoing.

Additionally, a job description for project mentors was created and advertised. Mentor interviews were conducted and the selection of appropriate mentors for the pilot phase in Irina is currently in process.

Benchmarks Achieved

Benchmark	Status
Locate and secure office space	Completed
Procure office furniture	Completed
Register Abt Associates in Tanzania	Completed
Hire key personnel	4 out of 5 hired
Hire support staff	Completed
Issue subcontracts	LOAs issued to all partners
Develop assessment tool	Completed
Conduct baseline assessment	Completed
Write baseline report	In progress
Clarify roles, responsibilities, relationships and resource commitments between the project and target councils	Ongoing
Conduct initial planning meetings with USAID, GOT and other stakeholders	Completed/ongoing
Identification of start-up councils	Completed

Problems Encountered (and whether resolved or outstanding)

During the first quarter of the project, there were some challenges in identifying appropriate office space. It took some time to find an office for the project since there was limited availability of affordable and accessible office space. However, this problem was resolved. After much effort looking for an appropriate space, the project has settled into an excellent office at Mikocheni, located at plot 328, Kibo Street, off Rose Garden Road.

Additionally, during this quarter there were some challenges faced in the hiring of Wajibika's Chief Technical Advisor for Strategic Planning (STASP). The letter of authorization (LOA) process between Abt and FHI was somewhat delayed, which affected FHI's ability to hire the STASP. Because the input from this key staff member was valued by the whole team, Abt and FHI agreed that Abt should hire the STASP as a temporary consultant so that she could be fully involved in important stakeholder meetings as well as the rapid assessment. The LOA has now been signed by both parties, and FHI is in the process of hiring this staff member, so this issue has been fully resolved.

Initially, the Wajibika team proposed to conduct the pilot phase within councils in more than one region. When the team spoke with key GOT stakeholders about the originally proposed start-up councils, there was some resistance due to the GOT's regional focus. After conversations with several stakeholders, the Wajibika team decided to adopt this regional approach, and start in Iringa Region. The GOT stakeholders were highly in favor of this change, due to Iringa's high HIV prevalence and the mix of types of councils (which is strategic for a pilot). Thus, the challenges in identifying appropriate start-up councils has been resolved.

There were also challenges faced in communicating with various stakeholders. Representatives from some organizations implementing similar work were not available due to busy schedules, and it would have been beneficial for the team to make linkages with these stakeholders. The Wajibika team also had certain challenges in meeting with stakeholders, due to the perception of Wajibika as an outsider to the basket funding partners. Finally, the team faced difficulties in identifying focal persons within the relevant ministries who may champion the Wajibika project. These issues are slowly being resolved.

Proposed Solutions to New or Ongoing Problems

To address challenges related to communicating with certain stakeholders, the Wajibika team will continue to involve key GOT stakeholders at national, regional and council levels to identify key focal persons or champions. In addition, the team will continue its advocacy with the Health Development Partners, for them to better understand Wajibika's relevance to the ongoing local government reform process. We hope that our supplementary role of ensuring accountability to the resources availed to the councils will soon be understood and appreciated by everybody.

Success Stories

Because this was the first quarter for the project, and many of the activities conducted centered around start-up and preparation for the pilot phase, it is not yet possible to write true intervention related success stories. Future quarterly reports will include more detailed success stories. It should be noted; however that Wajibika as a project was received well in Dodoma and Iringa by key GOT stakeholders. During visits to some stakeholders at national level and some of the councils it was very obvious that they appreciated that for the first time, the issue of accountability is being addressed by a donor funded project. Stakeholders recognized and appreciated Wajibika as an innovative initiative addressing the accountability of councils, which has not been a focus of external assistance previously.

Documentation of Best Practices (that can be scaled up)

Future quarterly reports will document the actual interventions and best practices that will be scaled up after the pilot phase in Iringa. During this quarter, the Wajibika team focused on project start-up and preparation for the pilot phase.

List of Upcoming Events/Key Meetings

In May, 2010 there will be stakeholder meetings organized to disseminate the findings from the rapid assessment report, and to decide upon pilot interventions.